BUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1889.

### Hunting Up Our Criminal Laws.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature, and reported favorably from the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, directing the Attorney-General to compile and report a schedule of the felonies and misdemeanors which exist by virtue of the statutes of this State, except those embraced within the Penal Code and the Code of Civil Procedure. The bill also makes it the duty of the Attorney-General to report to the Legislature an act repealing such criminal statutes as have me obsolete, or have been superseded by subsequent statutes or by the codes. The sum of \$1,000 is appropriated to defray the expense of doing the work.

Inserauch as ignorance of the law excus no man, it ought to be easy not only for lawyers, but for every citizen to ascertain what ests constitute crimes under the statutes of the State in which he lives. It is nevertheless true, so far as the State of New York is cerned, that there are scores if not hundreds of criminal offences which are not defined in the Penal Code or mentioned anywhere except in the yearly volumes of the sion laws. There are more than a hundred volumes of these session laws which will have to be carefully examined in order to make out the list provided for in the bill to which we have referred. It is extremely desirable that such a list should be prepared for the information of the public: but when It is completed the Legislature ought to prowide for its publication as a part of the Penal

When the Penal Code was originally proposed, one of the strongest arguments in favor of its adoption was the statement that it would enable any member of the comquality readily to ascertain what acts were midden by the criminal law, inasmuch as crime positive law of the State relating to volume and be contained in a single small tion did not the fact is that this codificacriminal laws of means embrace all the at the time the ? State which existed even Furthermore, every \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Code was adopted.
the Legislature has enaction new crimes; and these laws, statutes making made a part of the Penal Chead of being should be, are passed as separat as they dependent acts. For example, in the last volume of session laws containing statutes passed by the Legislature of 1886 we find amendments of nineteen sections of the Penal Code; but there are also nine statutes which are entirely independent of that code defining new crimes previously unknown to our law.

The present tendency of the Legislature to create so many new criminal offences is a serious error in public policy. We have heretofore shown that the nine or ten new crimes established by special statutes in the session of 1888 are acts which should be rendered punishable under general laws if punishable at all. But if new crimes are to be established at the rate of ten or a dozen a year, the Governor would do well to insist that the Legislature shall define such crimes in the form of additional sections of the Penal Code, and not otherwise. Then the people will know just where to find out what the law forbids them to do.

As to the proposed compilation of the penal statutes which have not been codified, it seems to us that this duty should be devolved upon some person other than the Attorney-General. That officer has enough to do already, and receives very moderate compensation for his services. There is little probability that he would do the work himself, but in all likelihood he would assign it to some subordinate. A better way would be to provide for the appointment of a qualifled lawyer, who could and would perform the task in person. There are, doubtless, number of such men at the Albany bar.

## Rights Again.

JOHN LOCKWOOD of Brooklyn propounds a question which suggests another:

Sin: What right have the police to interfere with or aid pany to secure help in time of strikes? Would Jons Lockwoon, 19 Columbia street, Brooklyn.

The simple and indisputable answer to JOHN's question as given here is that the police have no right at all to help any railroad company to obtain work people.

But is Mr. Lockwood under the impression that a man who desires to enter the service of any corporation or firm, and who upon approaching their office finds himself confronted and threatened by another citizen who says he shall not go to work, is not entitled to police protection? Or does Mr. Lockwood think, if a car com pany can man a car and send it out upon its route, that the car and the men who operate it, and the passengers who may take sents in it, are not entitled to police protection, always and to the fullest extent?

Both of these cases illustrate precisely what the police are here for. Their duty is to see that every man gets his rights, and that no man gets more than his rights. And whoever attempts to interfere violently with those rights must expect to face the police. sustained by the overwhelming and irresistible sentiment of the community.

The effort to run a labor movement or other lines than those that are established by this fundamental and necessary rule, must end in failure. It would not rest upon a foundation of justice, and it could not be carried forward with that general sympathy without which no public enterprise can hope to succeed. Any one who denies, by word or deed, these simple and self-evident principles can have no consideration from any body of men who hope to preserve in prosperity or adversity the name and character of decent, fair, selfrespecting citizens.

In every great attempt of laboring men to confirm the justice of their demands, it is the knaves who resort to violence, who step in between them and the public and check and paralyze all the impulsive sympathy, which otherwise would cleave to the inter ests of the workingmen, and perhaps help them to their desires.

## The Working Women.

It is not fair to criticise a document on the strength of a mere extract of its contents but if the summary of the fourth annual report of Mr. CARROLL D. WRIGHT, Commissioner of the Department of Labor, which comes from Washington, has really been prepared by a competent hand, a more worthless piece of work has never before been done at the cost of the people.

This report, it seems, deals entirely with the subject of "working women in great cities," with regard to whom agents of the department, chiefly women themselves, have been making inquiries in twenty-two large towns. They have personally questioned ore than 17,000 of these women, engaged in 349 distinct branches of industry, almost wholly light manual or mechanical labor, or service in shops. Those who earn their living by teaching, and in the occupations to which such modern inventions as the telegraph, the telephone, and the typewriter have given rise, are passed by; and yet it, is in this field that women of education and in-

telligence are now finding their best rewards. But a thorough and a scientific investigation as to the women who are employed in shops and factories would alone be of much interest. The number of these has enormously increased of late years, with the result that female labor now competes seriously with male labor, so that the labor problem has been made far more difficult. By introducing women into manual employments outside of the domestic seclusion are adding vastly to the body of workers, and the natural consequence must be a reduction of wages all around; for wonten always and everywhere cut under men in the price of their labor. The only industries into which they do not enter are those where rude physical strength is requisite. They cannot be blacksmithe, nor machinists, masons, stonecutters, and draymen; but the extension of the use of machinery demanding only diligent supervision has created a multitude of employments for which women are about as well fitted as men, while they can be hired at much less wages.

The average weekly wages of the women with whom this report deals are \$5.24 in the large towns covered by its very limited investigation, but as applied to all feminine workers, outside of domestic service, in which they get their best average pay, it is probably too high. Even accepting the figures of the report, the wage is nearer that of a boy than of a man. Though it may be true that, as a rule, a woman's pay is less than a man's simply because her work is worth less, she would get more were it not for the fact that the majority of such women workers as this report considers obtain employment merely as a means of eking out the resources of their families. They are girls, their average age being only about 22 years, and with them it is not so much a question of how much they earn as of earning something to contribute to the general stock of the household. Out of the 17,000 personally questioned by Mr. WRIGHT's agents, 14,918 live at home, and more than one-half of the whole give their earnings for the support of the home. They are faithful daughters who lend a hand in the family support, and count what they earn, no matter how little, as a plous contribution toward the maintenance of the household. Whatever they get is so much gain, and therefore they are ready to work cheaper than men, upon whom the task of bread winning must chiefly rest.

Yet the report says condescendingly of these devoted girls that "one need not hesiof his asserting that the working women of his country are as honest and as virtuous as ny other class of our citizens!" Why virtuous? The most and among them, but any be lapses from virtue among them, but is a whole these working women, because they are working women, are not only as honest ane-circuous as "any other class of our citizens; they are the most honest and virtuous. The same of emark of the report is an insult to them, at it is made concerning girls more than one-ling of whom are described as giving their small earnings for the support of the families to

which they belong. So far as we can find out from the abstract, the whole document is of little or no statistical value; but in that respect it bears a likeness to all the reports of the Labor Bureaus, from which the leaders of the workingmen expected so much.

The worst of humbugs is the constant

# manufacture of new offices at Washington.

The Situation in Paris. The outcome of the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday indicates that the Republican majority is as yet unbroken by BOULANGER'S success in the Paris election. In a remarkably full house M FLOQUET obtained a declaration of confidence by a vote of 300 against 240. The preponderance in his favor was not imposing: a change of 31 votes from one side to the other would have placed him in a minority. Still, he Premier seems to have been sufficiently encouraged by it to assume a defiant attitude and ignore the obvious purport of the verdict rendered by the Parisians. He will not resign; he will not advise President CARNOT to dissolve the Parliament; on the contrary, he will try to prolong the existence of the Chamber until its legal term expires in October. Meanwhile he proposes to substitute the Scrutin d'arrondissement for the Scrutin de liste, aiming thereby to make the species of plebiscite contemplated by

BOULANGER as costly and difficult as possible. The platform on which BOULANGER placed himself in the recent canvass of the Department of the Seine had but a single plank. He demanded the immediate dissolution of Parliament on the ground that the present Chamber of Deputies no longer represents the views and wishes of the nation. On this plain and simple issue he obtained an overwhelming triumph over all competitors. If an appeal to universal suffrage be the ultimate test-and this dogma is the primal article of the democratic creed-then, so far as Paris is concerned, the sitting Deputies have exhausted their mandate and outlived their usefulness. Those, at all events, who represent that city have no more moral right

to retain their seats than, according to the French Republicans, Marshal Mac-Mahon had to remain President after the country had pronounced against him. Paris, to be sure, is not France. but it scarcely lies in the mouths of anti-Boulangists to say so, since it was in the face of the General's repeated victories in the provinces that they defled him to try conclusions in the capital. Neither can it be contended that the result of Sunday's contes was due to the apathy of Republicans, a large proportion of them staying away from the polis. An analysis of the vote cast points to an opposite conclusion. Nearly 250,000 ballots were given to BOULANGER. Of these, the most careful estimates attribute only 70,000 to the Conservatives, and nobody assigns other route. The excitement was growing. more than 90,000 to this source. The General, then, must have received from 160,000 to

Jacques, even if every Conservative had held aloof from the polls. From a Republican point of view the au thority of such a verdict is unimpeachable. and we may be sure that M. FLOQUET, far from denying it, would yield to it, if he dared. It is a melancholy proof of the failure of his friends to retain their hold upon the nation's confidence, that a Radical Premier now shrinks from facing the test coldly confronted by the DE BROGLIE-FOURTOU reactionists in 1877. At that time notwithstanding the intimidation and seduc tion practised by MacManon's Ministers the Republicans won a great victory. Now with all the instruments of official pressure

180,000 Republican and Socialist votes, or

enough to beat his principal rival, M.

in their hands they are anxious to put off the trial of strength as long as possible. The same consciousness of weakness is betrayed in their recurrence to the Scrutin d'arron dissement or single-district method of election. It was the Conservatives who inserted

that electoral system in the Constituframed by the Versailles Assemtion bly. It was GAMBETTA who earnestly advocated the substitution of the Scrutin de hate or departmental ticket plan, and, after the fall of his own Ministry, his followers earried out his purpose. In those days French Republicans wanted the Scrutin de liste, because they were strong and growing stronger every day, and because it seem that force would be economized if, instead of frittering their energies on arrondissements or single districts, they should sweep whole departments at a stroke. That they now fall back upon the system previously discarded will naturally be construed as an apprehension of defeat, as an admission that there may be now in France a party or a personality more powerful than they. It is well, moreover, to examine how much they may reasonably expect to gain by the change. There is no doubt that the Scrutin d'arrondissement affords a refuge for a minority, for a party may be decidedly weaker than its opponent in every department and yet manage, under this system, to carry a good many arrondissements. Just as in this country it is conceivable that the Republicans should carry every Northern State, but that would not prevent the Democrats from electing a good many members of Congress from the same section. The method of voting, therefore, proposed by M. FLOQUET will tend to reduce a Boulangist majority in the Chamber of Deputies, but it may not much impair the influence of BOULANGER himself. The species of plebiscite involved in the election of one man by a multitude of electoral circumscriptions may be practised as well under the Scrutin d'arrondissement as the Scrutin de liste. When the former method prevailed, GAM-BETTA was returned from scores of districts; and it may be that in hundreds BOULANGER will turn out to be the successful candidate. Such a minute subdivision of effort will heavily tax the General's pecuniary resources, but thus far his purse, from whatever myterious source it is replenished,

seems inexhaustible. There is, in fine, no doubt that the anti-Boulangists are now on the defensive. They once insisted on the adoption of the Scrutin de liste, and now they are afraid of it. They challenged BOULANGER to let the Purisians decide between him and them, and now they will not abide by the verdict. This is a dangerous attitude for a party to take in a country like France, which has its full share of waverers and trimmers, and where a retreat is apt to degenerate into a rout.

#### Travelling in Disguise.

Almost within sight of Europe are the Riff Mountains, stretching along the northern coast of Morocco, and very imperfectly known, because the fanatical Berbers would kill any white man whom they caught among their wild hills. Even the watershed between the rivers flowing north and south is not indicated on the maps, and only two or three adventuresome whites, most notably Mr. DE FOUCAULD, have been able, in disguise, to make flying trips into the country. DE FOUCAULD has supplied the best information we possess about these mountains and their warlike inhabitants. A while ago he Sultan of Morocco sent them a Governor,

whose they promptly killed, and the Sultan has let went alone ever since. Last sufficer Mr. W. B. Harris ventured upon this forbideon ground, a particularly rash undertaking, - he was not well equipped to support the res of a Moor. His acquaintance with Arable was imperfect, and, as he could not talk without wposing his real character, he played the deaf neste and relied upon a trusty Arab boy as his means of communication. In the garb of a middle-class Moor, with his bare legs and arms slightly stained, he started for Sheshouan, a town of 8,000 people which has lately made its first appearance on the maps, sixty miles south of the Mediterranean

He and his comrade passed many natives without exciting suspicion. Those who were inquisitive were informed by the boy that his master lived in Fez and was travelling to Sheshouan. Two men of the Beni-Hassan tribe, however, accused him of being a Christian, and threatened him with death if he did not turn back. HARRIS pushed on in spite of them, and learned later that they let him go only that they might catch him when he had penetrated further into the country. That evening their weary mules brought the travellers to Sheshounn, a rather flourishing community which makes death the penalty to be inflicted upon any Christian who dares to visit the town.

The parents of the Arab boy live there, and they bitterly upbraided their son for asking them to risk their lives by giving shelter to a Christian. They were prevailed upon, however, by a large reward to entertain the stranger. Thus assured of a night's shelter, and reasonably certain to escape notice in the indistinct light of evening, Mr. HARRIS sallied out to see the town and mingle with the crowds. Among thousands of bitter enemies he sauntered very unobtrusively through the streets, but the nov elty of his position and the unaccustomed sights made the stroll most interesting.

He was surprised to find a bridge of solld masonry spanning the river, aqueducts bringing water and distributing it to all the houses and gardens; mills grinding corn, their wheels turned by water from the aqueducts; streets paved with rough stones and bordered by gutters in which fresh water constantly flows; red tiled roofs found nowhere else, and houses much superior to those in many easily accessible Moorish towns. The people dress like those in other parts of Morocco. They regard themselves as direct descendants of the Prophet.

All next day Mr. HARRIS lay hidden in the home of his Arab boy. Toward evening, as he was preparing to start back to the coast, it was noised about that a Christian was in town. The men who threatened him on the road had arrived with the startling news that a white man in disguise had come to Sheshouan. His purpose had been to leave the town about dusk in the disguise of a woman, while his mules departed by anand it was decided he had no time to lose. Putting on a mountaineer's garb, he stole out of one of the five gates unnoticed, though every one in the streets was discuss ing the rumor about the Christian. Outside the walls he was joined by his Arab boy and a friend of the faithful servant. Through the night they toiled along the mountain path to a distant village, which they reached before daybreak, and the white fugitive, whose feet were bleeding from numerous cuts, was hidden during the day in the house of the friend in need who had accompanied him. Meanwhile his mules were brought from Sheshouan, and at midnight the fugitive was once more on the road, and in thirteen hours he had safely reached the coast.

The traveller Burton has perhaps under estimated the peril of wandering in disguise among hostile peoples. His complete mastery of several Oriental languages, his perfect familiarily with Oriental modes of thought and expression, and his personal appearance enabled him to deceive the mos spicious. But not a few recent travellers have vividly depicted the incessant dangers

pretending to be what he is not, places himself in the power of fanatical tribes. The most dramatic chapters of recent exploration have been written by men like McNAIR in Kafiristan, Hurgbonje at Mecca, Lenz at Timbuctoo, and Dours in the western Sahara, who faced the deadliest perils in order to give the world fresh and interesting facts.

### Is New York to be the Literary Centre

of the English-Speaking World? The provisions of the International Copyright bill now pending in Congress have excited a good deal of alarm among English publishers, printers, binders, and, in fact, all persons connected with the mechanical side of book making. Their fear is that, since the Americans are book buyers, whereas the English are for the most part book borrowers, English authors will be irresistibly impelled to issue their productions first in the United States, whence the stereotype plates or bound volumes would be sent to Great Britain for distribution in that country. These apprehensions, which were expressed by the publishers not long ago to Lord Salisbury, have begun of late to infeet the authors themselves, and in letters to the newspapers some of them have drawn a gloomy picture of the literary future of the United Kingdom. Foreseeing that where the carcass is there also will the eagles be gathered together, the writer of a letter to the London Times avows the conviction that English authors, wishing to place themselves in close communication with their American publishers, will migrate in a body to the United States, and thus transfer from London to New York the literary centre of the English-speaking race.

would be a ludierous outcome of the effort to protect American authors against English competition. We presume that it will be admitted that English writers, viewed as a class, are, like English laborers and English actors, undernaid. Coming to this country with a relatively modest standard of requirements in the way of food and lodging. they would inevitably lower the already meagre earnings of the literary profession and drive their less hardy and thrifty American comrades to the wall. Such are, at all events, the arguments on the strength of which Congress has been urged to shield the American stage from a too sweeping irruption of dramatic artists from Great Britain. We do not see why these sapient considerations should not carry equal weight in the case of American book makers, if they really are menaced by a similar invasion. We suppose that, on an average, they earn rather less than actors, and are less able to bear the reduction incident to an influx of pauperized and famished litterateurs of Europe.

Such an emigration, were it to take place,

But what would English authors write about if they should flock over the Atlantic and settle in New York? Take the case of a novelist, for instance. He would soon have to stop delineating English society, because he would be out of touch with it. Neither could he hope to deal with American subjects, for these would be more accurately and effectively treated by men to the manner born. He would be in an incomparably worse plight than the immigrant English actor, although even he, it is observed, if he sojourns too long in this country, is apt to lose those niceties of the English pronunclation which seem to constitute a salient feature of his stock in trade. For an English novelist, poet, or social essayist who should set up his Penates in New York, but who presently would find himself losing a vivid conception of things English, while hopeless of gaining a correct impression of things American, there would be no resource except an ignominious and hurrled return to . It is true that from a business point of View it would be convenient for an English author to have his American publisher next door, or, so to speak, under his thumb, but it would be still more desirable to have something to offer him worth

buying. We do not therefore anticipate that the passage of the Copyright bill would have any revolutionary effect of the kind that is dreaded. Those English authors who respect the rudimentary principles of literary comosition will continue to live among the things and persons which they undertake to write about; and their desire for intercourse with their American publisher will content itself with an inspection of his name upon a check. Changes far more trenchant and subversive than any traceable to the enactment of the bill mentioned will be required to bring about even such a transference of literary activity as took place under the Prolemies from Athens to Alexandria. When the Prussian eagles fly unchecked over conquered Britain, we may expect to see whole compa nies of English authors flying to the United States. Until that time London will doubtless remain the great centre of literary production for the Angle-Saxon peoples, although New York is possibly destined to become the largest entrepot for the distribution of English books. It should not, however, be forgotten that the reign of Mudic's and other great circulating libraries in England shows signs of drawing to a close, and that London publishers perhaps need only to abolish the three-volume novel and to issue works of fiction in a compact and cheap form to transform their countrymen from borrowers into buyers of books.

## The Grading of Teachers.

The plan for the grading of teachers proposed by the special committee of the Board of Education as a substitute for the present arbitrary system of marking is unquestionably a great step in advance.

As it is now, the classification of teachers is made after an examination which really furnishes no criterion of their capacity as instructors. The examiners go about from school to school, and during the few minutes which they give to each class, it is impossible for them to do any sort of justice to the teacher. One of the assistant superintendents, for instance, examined and reported on 1,500 classes during a single school year, spending on an average only fifteen minutes with each class. The judges at a dog show would be censured for negligence if they submitted the beasts to no more careful test than that; and yet thousands of hard-working men and women hold their places subject to the results of such hurried examinations, and their chances of advancement are made to depend on the snap judgment of such superficial examiners. Nor does the teacher know whether the marks set down are good or bad, for the perfunctory examiners keep that information to themselves. Though, of course, ne sensible man would pay the slightest heed to so childish a test of merit in the management of his own affairs, these marks, all the same, may make or ruin the teacher

But the pupils are the worst sufferers from the mechanical system. They are simply the pawns played by the teacher in the game to win the marks upon which success pends. Therefore the more muchine-like they are made, the greater is the triumph, so that the teacher's effort is simply to cram the memory, without regard to the understanding. The system, too, "requires," in the language of the report, "that every child

in a class shall be up and equal to each of its classmates; that is to say, in a class of fifty or sixty children of different calibre, different intellect, and different preparation, no child shall hold more or less than any other child.' It is no wonder that such a method produces effects on the pupils that have raised serious doubts in many minds whether the public schools are not doing about as much injury

as good to the children of the town. The evil undoubtedly has one of its main roots in the multiplication of the number of studies and the extension of the courses of study in the schools. So much work is undertaken that it is impossible for an ordinary child to do it well; and as a consequence the habit of thoroughness, of so great moral necessity to the child, is not acquired, and the vicious tendency to sham and superficiality is encouraged. If our public schools gave nothing except the most rudimentary instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and the elements of history, they would do far more service to the children

and to the State than they do now. The plan of reform suggested by the committee falls to go to the bottom of the evil, for the whole system of Instruction needs to be simplified. Cramming is its inevitable consequence, since it tasks the child without regard to his powers of assimilation. But by getting rid of the device of examination marks as the sole test of the capacity of the teachers, a great improvement will be effected. The committee's plan is to grade teachers with due regard to the judgment of the principals as to their qualities.

#### The Last Surprise Among the Trotters.

Another surprise comes from that great and most remarkable field of physical evolution, our world of trotters. To the eye of science, which has watched unceasingly the wonderful development of this American type of horse, it must appear as the most

extraordinary advance yet recorded. In the Turf, Field, and Farm we find the information, forwarded by Mr. J. L. Brown of Westerly, Rhode Island, that a yearling, a perfect youngster, by Nutbourne, trotted a half mile last fall in 1:21, led behind a sulky!

The last twenty years, particularly the last ten of them, have furnished almost incredible surprises in the performances of trotters under various conditions and ages, and this, while being among the greatest, is perhaps also the most satisfactory. Here was a yearling colt which in effect was merely asked to move, and away he sailed on a trot for half a mile at the rate of 2:42. He travelled, it must be remembered, without the nips and lifts with the reins with which a driver sitting behind steadies, squares, and stimulates the animal whose mouth he feels. This immature creature was born to do what horses but a few years ago were with great difficulty and after long effort made to do by means of all the external appliances and skill known to the track. We believe that this performance leads all others, age considered, though it has been stated that the King Rèné mare Fugue has trotted quarters to the halter in the time, as yet unattained in harness, of 30 seconds.

If CHARLES DARWIN could have seen how by select breeding, in less than a century, an animal's form would be so moulded and his instinct so regulated and confirmed as to show what this young Nutbourne has shown he would have been aghast at the wonder works of the law which he had laid before the world with timidity and hesitation. Mr. BROWN, who owns this colt, and Mr. Box-NER, who owns his sire, the gray horse that boasts Maud S's, dam as his own, may well regard with pleasure their connection with such an achievement.

But when will such startling evidences of the power of evolution skilfully directed cease to be exhibited? Not for many years yet among the trotters.

The Hon, WILLIAM BOYD ALLISON Seems to have what may be called in theological hrase a realizing sense of his condition Now, as in 1881, he declines without regrets an invitation to the Cabinet. Mr. Allison has consequently served notice upon his admiring countrymen that now and ever afterward he

is and is to be a candidate for the Presidency To become a member of the Cabinet is, justly or not, regarded as the hari-kari of a politician's ambition to be President. man from Iowa avoids this suicide of his lofty aspirations. He leaves them to what in all probability will prove a lingering death.

To be a professional candidate for the Presi-

dency is to throw away all reasonable hope of being elected President.

When the last rioter has been driven out of sight the public will be inclined to examine the justice of the striking car drivers' real griev ances.

We sympathize deeply with our friend Mr. Singerly of that tariff-smashing organ, the Philadelphia Record, in his failure to get Mr. HAMLIN to match the beautiful Belle Hamlin against his own noble gelding Prince Wilkes. But there are other trotting-horse owners of vigorous belief in the abilities of their animals with whom Mr. SINGERLY may hope to come to terms. And how much better it is to be engaged in the cultivation of this bright ornament of the Union, the American trotter, than in show, ing the Democracy into the tariff ditch, the Hecord's sole occupation during the memorable year of 1888.

Mrs. Languages must be pronounced the handsomest.

The champion town is unquestionably Seattle, W. T. Listen to the conscientions report of the cashier of one of its national banks "The l'ont Office facilities of Scattle are in such a de- we dwell. plorable condition owing to our city's rapid growth, that on Jan 12 1889, the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Beard of Trade wired the Postmaster-General as follows: "We require at least five extra cierks. The transpent population increases at the rate of 1,000 per month. Musicess men have been without their mail for four days. Men stand in the from tive to six hours waiting for their mail.' From the well-known circumication of the Post Office Department no specirelief can be expected to come from this appeal for many months to come. In order, therefore, that such of your customers as contemplate coming to this city during the spring and summer may be saved the ar noyance of having to stand in line as set forth above we would be pleased to have them instruct their friends

to address their mail in care of this bank." Either Don Manuelo Dickinson should send it least five extra clerks to Senttle, or see that that eashier is fired from a post whose Importance gives credibility to his statements.

The Irish Parliamentary Fund Committee will have a meeting at the Hoffman House on Monday evening next. The last meeting resuited in the addition of several thousand dollars to the fund, and it is expected that a larger sum will be subscribed this week. The Chairman, Mr. EUGENE KELLT, hores that the third effort of his committee will show that the people of New York are in full sympathy with Mr. PARNELL and his followers; that they take no stock in forgery or perjury. and that they condemu the action of the Tory Government in Ireland.

## Mr. Wanamaker Buysa House in Washing

From the Philadelphia Ledger Mr. Wanamaker has purchased the Freling-haysen house, on I street, above Seventeenth, now oc-copied by Secretary Whitney. When Mr. Whitney eased the property he secured an option for its pur chase, the price being fixed at \$50,000. Although Mr. Whitney fid not make the purchase be added a bail room and made other improvements, which involved an expenditure of \$50,000. Mr. Wanamaker has purchased the property on Mr. Whitney's option, paying therefor

THE NEW LEASE OF THE PRIBILOY IBLANDS.

The Monopoly to be Continued and the Gov. ernment's Revenue Increased,

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2. - The bill which has ust been reported for the lease of the islands of St. Paul and St. George from May 1, 1890, to May 1, 1910, makes two noticeable changes in the law governing the current lease, which has

been running since May 1, 1870. The existing statute might be interpreted, it is thought, to permit calling for bids for a second rental of the islands until after the expiration of the present lease, which would involve a loss of income between the old and the new contract, as well as a break in the local responsibilities assumed. The new bill, therefore, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to make a new lease at any time within a year of the expiration of an existing one, giving sixty days notice by newspaper publication inviting bids in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, New Orleans, St. Louis and San Francisco.

In the next place, the existing lease imposes revenue tax or duty of \$2.62% per skin taken and shipped from the islands. The pending bill raises this amount to \$3.50. This, of course, is in addition to the fixed rental of \$50,000 per annum required by the statute as a consideration for the lease. There are also to be obligations, as at present, on the lessco's part, to furnish free each year to the inhabitants of the two islands 2,500 dried salmon, 60 cords of firewood, enough barrels and salt for preserving their meat, which, being chiefly that of the seal, they also get free, and finally a school on each island, kept open at least eight months in the year. The lessee is allowed to take each year 100,000 fur seals on the islands, and no more. The seals can only be killed in June, July, September, and October, and under certain other restrictions intended to prevent the decrease of the fur-bearing animals, female seals and seals not over a year old being pre-

decrease of the fur-bearing animals, female seals and seals not over a year old being preserved. The gain in revenue on 100,000 seals would be \$37,500 a year, reckoned at the difference between the present royalty or tax actually paid and that which is exacted under the new bill. It would be as much greater as this royalty or tax should be increased by the voluntary action of successful bidders.

In addition, the bill formally declares the inrisdiction of the United States over all the Behring Sea waters ceded by Alaska, and makes it the President's duty, at a timely season in each year, to publish in at least one newspaper in each of our Pacific ports a warning against seal poaching. He is also rejudred to send one or more vessels to protect the rights of the lessees. The last two sections of the bill relate to the salimon of Alaska.

It becomes evident, therefore, that the result of the recent investigations has been to reject the suggestion of opening the seal fisheries to all comers and to retain the present system of exclusive leasing. A leading ground for this conclusion of the House committee is that the products of Alaska's seas would be speedily exterminated by opening them to all comers. The amount paid by the present isseed up to last July was \$5,597,000. From this should be deducted \$250,000 for the expenses and salaries of Treasury agents and \$150,000 for the cost of revenue cutters cruising in Alaskan waters. But these deductions in turn are more than made up by the sum of \$50,000 paid in customs duties on Alaska-dressed sealskins imported from the company from Ilussian waters, since it also has a contract with Russia for her seal fisheries. It further appears from the House documents that the Government has received from the company since 1870 "customs duties on Alaska-dressed sealskins imported from Europe amounting to \$3,426,000," so that there is "an aggregate amount received by the Government on account of this industry of \$9,525,283, being \$2,225,283 in excess of the amount paid to Russa for

It is plain, however, that a strong reason for proposing to continue the present system of leasing is that otherwise the rookeries would soon be destroyed. Pages of testimony are occupied with proofs of the enormous waste of seal life produced by indiscrimate hunting, as the cupidity of sealers leads them to look to success in the immediate voyage rather than to the general interests of the fisheries. It is considered impossible to maintain the present strict regulations as to times and manners of seal killing except through leasing to responsible persons, with Government agents to keen the taily of the number of animals taken. Accordingly the chances are that this system will be continued by Congress, although the present company may not secure a renewal of the lease in the bidding, while modifications may be made by Congress in the terms of the lease and in the number of seals now allowed to be taken. It is plain, however, that a strong reason for

LORD BEACONSFIELD A HOME BULER. ord Rosebery, in a Speech, Shows the Evidence that the Conservative Leader

was in Accord with Gladstone.

From the London Daily Telegraph. Mr. Pierrepont, who had formerly been Amercan Minister in this country, had just published some extracts from his diary of conversations with Lord Beacons field which were well worthy the attention of the country. "I asked," said Mr. Pierrepont, "if he had any plan for the better government of Ireland, and he lied that he had no perfected plan, but that he proposed to place Ireland in a similar relation to that which different in many conditions, on account of the difference in circumstances, but in the main similar. It was for holding the opinion that Lord Benconsided expressed in that conversation that the Liberals were called "Separatists." Lord Beaconsfield added: "The ear that many expressed lest in that case Ireland would become independent I consider groundless. Your war (the American civil war) has settled that. Even several great States comb ped could not maintain a confederacy independent of the Union." Then Mr. Pierrepont asked his opinion of coercien, and Lord Beaconsfield gave it in this way: "The blood-and-fron method of governing freland would tail. It failed under Cromwell. The trish are susceptible of kindness and full of sentiment, not ogical, and inconsiderate of the means necess red ends, but easily governed if dealt with in he right way."

## The Gorgeous Evening Star.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Kindly say what that brilliant object, at present situated in the southwest dramament, is, as by so doing you will enlighten a number of cranks who insist that it is another of Edison's "wonders," and wift not be compadded unless they see it in print.

New York, Feb. 2.

New York, Feb. 2.

We have recently answered this same question, and within the pass four or five years we have answered it many times. The supposed "electric balloon" is nothing more nor less than the planet Venus, which reappears at regular periods in the sunset sky as it pursues its journey around the sun within the orbit of the carry swings into that part of its arbit which brings it closer to the earth, it shines with an extraordinary brilliancy exceeding that of any other star. Yet all its light, which makes so lively an impression upon our eyes, is simply reflected similable sent back from the cloud-filled atmos-phere of a planet that in size, weight, and other particulars is remarkably similar to the giobe on which

## For Superintendent of Insurance

From the Fuffilo Evening News Theophilus C. Callicott, editor of the Albany limes, served in the Legislature years ago, and was one elected Speaker, but since that time he has not been in public life. He is a brilliant and trenchant writer, and the Trace is one of the brightest and spiciest papers in the State. He is a thorough going Democrat. has never had any sympathy with the political cant and hypocrisy which have been in such favor at Wash-ington. He has, moreover, been a faithful friend of the dovernor ever since the latter was elected Lieutenant. Governor in 1882

All the elements which would naturally lead the Gov mor to the selection of a man for such a place are and combined in Mr. Callicott. He has executive ability, is winely popular, is faithful to his friends, and is a thorough Democrat.

#### A New Order of Scottish Odd Fellows. From the Location Little Acura.

A movement of great importance is said to be on foot among Scottish Odd Fellows. A number of Scottish lodges have passed resolutions in favor of a general secsation from the parent body, and the formation of a new order to embrace the whole of Scot-lant. It appears that for some time past considerable discontent has existed among Sec task old lectures in cause of the manuer in which (so it is alleged) privileges which should acque to them from their membership are neutralized, owing to their amaignmenton with an order whose bradquarters are so far distant, The Central Executive is repursed to be using every effort to heat the breach, and has issued a mauticate they counsel the Scottish members to remain true to

## Suing Terre Haute and Indianapolis.

The Bank of the State of New York has obtained from Justice Patterson of the Suprema court and attachment against the property in this State of the Terre Haute and In Harapp is Raifreal Company. The bank is saining for \$1.00 calmed to be due on a 3 per cent, dividend declared in May has on the company's stock.

Weak large or threats are severely tried by our rough, wintry weather, and call for prompt treatment whetivery attacked. Dr. Jayne's Expecterant is an old, well-tried medicine for all broactial or pulmonary at fections, and is sure to cure your coid and best inflamed tried menicine for all broachial or pulmonary af-ions, and is sure to cure your cold and beal indumed

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

Three of the gayest dances of the winter took place on Monday. Tue-day, and Wednesday evenings. Monday was a Vanderbilt night. which means taste, wealth, and luxury combined. It is searcely possible to do justice to the Vanderbilt entertainments, the manslous in which they are given so immeasurably surpass in point of size, architecture, and ornamentation all others in this city. Other houses may be snugger, cosier, and more artistically elegant, but they have not equal facilities for ball giving. Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, who possesses an innate love for flowers and an exquisite taste in directing their arrangement, made a perfumed bower of her Louis Soize drawing room by admitting as floral orna-ments only filies of the valley, which harmonized perfectly with her white and gold walls and ceilings. It was in th's room that the fair mistress of the revels received her guests without any "assistance" from friends or relatives. It was not a debutante's ball. It was rather an occasion for the young married women to amuse themselves, as the belles of a season or two back were, as usual, quite in the minority. It is to be hoped that these same maidens will consent to make a new debut next winter, as society cannot afford to lose their fair young faces and most attractive presence.

There was a scarcity of men in the ballroom. and several young ladies left early without having been solicited to remain for the german, but the supper room was barriended by hungry youths, who disappeared down the stairway to the billiard room in search of their hats and coats as soon as their craving for nonrishment had been satisfied. In spite of the admirable arrangements by which the picture gallery. Turkish room, music room, and conservatory were made available for the serving of supper to the guests, it was the most unmannerly crowd that has been seen at any private ball this year.

There was no sign of flagging among the dancers, nor of wear and tear in the gowns they were. Miss Hargous, who, it is said, has not missed a dance this winter, looked as well as usual in white. Miss Florence Griswold were a curious combination of black and gold. which was less becoming than many other gowns. Mrs. Ladenburg was as young and pretty as ever, but also, apparently, more dellcate Mrs Marshall O. Roberts rivalled Mrs. Astor in the number and brilliancy of her jewels. Miss Frick from Baltimore looked extremely handsome, and had her usual train of admirers, while Mrs. James Waterbury, Mrs. W. D. Sioane, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Mrs. S. S. Sands, Mrs. Cooper Hewitt, Mrs. Burke-Roche, and Mrs. Prescott Lawrence, all of whom were in the cotillon, made a galaxy of brilliant stars which throw all lesser lights into obscurity.

The next evening was the third of the dinner dances, and, with some few exceptions, almost the same people assembled in Mrs. Wilson's ballroom that had been present at the previous "combinations." The Hon. Mrs. Herbert came on from Washington for the occasion, and was most charming in her point lace and diamonds. She received a warm welcome from old friends, and seemed glad to be in a crowd of familiar faces once more. Mrs. Coleman Drayton was also a new appearance, as she has not been seen in the gay world since Mr. Drayton's severe illness last autumn.

On Wednesday Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish turned her new house into fairyland, when the "other combination, as it is called, to distinguish it from Mrs. Astor's, met there. Mrs. Fish's house is not so large nor so grand as that of either of the Vanderbilts, but it is exceedingly pretty. The white and gold drawing room, which was the bullroom on this occasion, is panelled in white silk, with mouldings and arabesques of gold, and the curtains, hangings, and portieres are of the same ivory white material, with wreaths of lilies twined over them by hand embroidery. This picture-like room was profusely adorned with palms and hothouse plants, in the branches of which hung gilded enges with canary birds, whose little throats gave out the shrillest notes, as if in answer to the oft-repeated question, " Are they alive now, really?" To say who was there would be only vain repetition, as more than ever this winter are the same people seen night after night dancing the same dances. and as for the ladies' gowns and jewelry, they are as well known by this time as the Fifth avenue omnibuses.

There will be novelty enough on the coming Tuesday, however, at the costume reception, for histories have been studied and costume books ransacked for the richest and most recherché costumes. No trouble has been spared to make it a complete success, and doubtless so it will be The quadrilles will not only be perfect as and decoration epoch and the country will, as far as possible. be reproduced. Mrs. Richard Howland Hunt. who presides over the French quadrille, has a minuet de la Cour in course of practice and rehearsal, which will be danced by the prettiest and daintiest costumes at the ball. Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt, who has chosen Queen Anne's court as the period for her quadrille, will give Sir Roger de Coverly as Addison, Swift, and Sterne danced it, which, if less stately and imposing than the minuet, will be vastly more amusing. Many other dances and dresses are reported and predicted, but as there seems to be an insane desire on the part of the ladies to keep everything a profound secret, those who are outside the charmed circle can control their imatience until the great affair takes place. Fancy balls always turn a community upside down, which, perhaps, is the reason that, like comets, they only appear at long intervals.

The postponement of Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry's dance, which was to have been on Thursday night, gave young girls a chance for rest and beauty sleep, and night free to enjoy the French ball, at which they were not expected to appear in knee breeches and silk stockings. Gilded youths, by the way, are grumbling a little at this new departure in evening dress, and predicting rheumatism, pneumonia, and big carriage bills as the result of diaphanous nether garments. Mrs. Astor, however, has requested that they should be worn on the occasion of her dinner dance, to which those who are invited to the banquet have graciously assented, but those who feel less flattered by being asked to come in the evening are doubtful about obliging their hostess in this respect.

A number of engagements have been announced during the last week, and cards have been issued for Miss Clara Gautier's and Mr. Oliver Bird's wedding on Wednesday next, which, however, is to be a small and quiet affair. The engagement announcements are Miss Mand Howland, daughter of Mr. G. G. Howland, to Percy Pone, Jr., a grandson of the Inte Moses Taylor; Miss Torrance, a sister of Mrs. Meredith Howland and granddaughter of Commodore Vanderbilt, to Mr. John A. Hadden. dr., and Miss Louise Thoron, the orphan granddaughter of Mr. Samuei G. Ward, to Mr. William C. Endicott, son of the Eccretary of War. The engagement has also been cabled from the other side of Mrs. Arthur Post, for-merly Miss I limbeth Wadsworth, to Mr. Arthur Hugh Smith-Enrry, an English M. P. of wealth and prominence, who, if not the relative of a hundred earls, is at least distantly connected with two of that class of noblemer

Mr. Villiam K. Vanderbilt and his family, with Mr. Goodd Redmend and Mr. Winfield Hoyt, started on Friday for Baltimore, from whence they were to sail xesterday in the steam yacat Alva for the West Indies, the Spanish Main, and the Azeres,

Several large parties for Montreal will start this week to enjoy the ice palace and to forget that we have been living in a salmost tropical elimate this winter in New York. Others are planning exersions to Washington for the inauguration ceremonies. The future Vice-President has taken a house on a short lease until the one he has secured on Scott Circle can be made reads for occuration. A large party will a company Mr. and Mrs. Morton on the 3d of March, among whom are Mr. and Mrs. James Creas. Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Hunt. Mr. and Mrs. Architald Rogers, and Mr. and Mrs. John Hobart Warren.